

**Amendments to the Specification:**

These amendments to the specification replace all corresponding sections of the specification:

Applicant amends the paragraph on page 1, lines 14-19 as follows:

When a client, e.g., 10a, attempts to access a database server 14 via an API 12a, e.g., Open Database Connectivity (ODBC), Object Linking and Embedded Database (OLEDB) or Java Database Connectivity (JDBC), many pieces of information are exchanged between the client API 12a and the server 14 in order for the connection to be successful. One such piece of information is a definition of a set of capabilities or features that are supported by the client API 12a and the server 14. The client SAPI 12a must understand the capabilities or features of the server 14, and vice versa, in order to exchange data correctly.